

Your Lourdes Sunday Liturgy at Home

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 9, 2020

‘a tiny whispering sound.’

– 1 Kings 19:12

We go on retreats, ascend to mountain tops, plunge to ocean deeps, and make pilgrimages to have an encounter with God. In this week’s Scriptures, the tables are turned. God is the one who is doing the seeking – seeking us out for an encounter.

In our reading from First Kings, the first Hebrew Prophet Elijah is on the run from the minions of Queen Jezebel whom he had humiliated in a public challenge. Elijah feared for his life and was at a loss about what came next for him. He ran to the holy mountain of God and hid in a cave, where he waited for God to pass by. A mighty rock-crushing wind, a thunderous earthquake, and a scorching fire came and went. But God was not in them. And then Elijah detected “a tiny whispering sound” – and he hid his face in his cloak. God was present at the mouth of the cave. And nothing was the same afterwards.

Dianne Bergant writes: that “Most commentators maintain that this revelation points out that usually the small, insignificant events of life are the stage upon which the revelation of God is enacted. It is so easy to be awed by the spectacular and overlook the ordinary. Yet most lives are made up of the ordinary, and it is there the ‘tiny whispering voice’ of God will be heard.”

Gustavo Gutiérrez notes that “There are no circumstances or situations which are closed to the experience of God. There is only one seeming prerequisite: getting out of ourselves and standing before God to discover his passing in our lives, and in the events of reality. This passing can be as discreet as a gentle breeze, which is neither overpowering nor crushing.

Scholars point out that the Hebrew text defies translation, and, for that reason, Elijah’s experience has been expressed in English as

“a sound of sheer silence,” “a faint murmuring sound,” “a light murmuring sound,” “a still small silence,” “a light silent sound” or “the sound of a gentle breeze.” This subtle presence opens up a profound possibility that we can have a theophany, an experience of God, in the unspectacular situations and sites of our lives. Keep listening for what Simon and Garfunkel’ sang about – “The Sound of Silence.”

In our Matthew selection this week, it’s deep into the night on that storm-tossed boat, and the disciples are already fearing possible drowning, and then what seems to be a ghost starts coming toward them walking on the water. What now?

What’s called the Fourth Watch of the night in Matthew is what we’d say is 3 a.m. – a time when worry happens, a time when bad decisions are made, when the streets are empty and danger and temptation loom in the shadows. Everything seems worse at 3 a.m. We are now living in a perpetual 3 a.m. worrying about the spread of the corvid-19, fretting about the coming elections, anxious about the economy, concerned about our own finances, and on and on.

In portraying Jesus as walking on the water, Matthew may have had in mind a number of passages from the Hebrew scriptures that speak of God walking on the sea. Sister Verna A. Holyhead reminds us that we too are ‘water walkers’ today when we come together Sunday after Sunday to praise God despite the storms in our life during the past week.

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Prelude: “Music In The Air” sung by The Voices of East Harlem
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUFRjJKZX1Q>

Leader: In the name of the Father, † and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: *Amen*

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and
the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you promise to be with us in times of danger and distress:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are in the quiet places amid the clamor of this life:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to have the courage to come to you:

Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer

God of all power,

your sovereign word comes to us in Christ.

When your Church is in danger, make firm our trust;

when your people falter, steady our faith.

Show us in Jesus your power to save,

that we may always acclaim him as Lord,

who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Readings for 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A August 9 2020

1st Reading – 1 Kings 19:9A, 11-13A

^{9A} At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter.

¹¹ Then the LORD said to him, “Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by.” A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

¹² After the earthquake there was fire but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound.

^{13A} When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The Word of the Lord.....Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

⁹ I will hear what God proclaims;^{[L][SEP]}
the LORD for he proclaims peace.^{[L][SEP]}

¹⁰ Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,^{[L][SEP]}
glory dwelling in our land.^{[L][SEP]}

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

¹¹ Kindness and truth shall meet;^{[L][SEP]}
justice and peace shall kiss.^{[L][SEP]}

¹² Truth shall spring out of the earth,^{[L][SEP]}
and justice shall look down from heaven.^{[L][SEP]}

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

¹³ The LORD himself will give his benefits;^{[L][SEP]}
our land shall yield its increase.^{[L][SEP]}

¹⁴ Justice shall walk before him,^{[L][SEP]}
and prepare the way of his steps.^{[L][SEP]}

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

2nd Reading – 1 Romans 9:1-5

Brothers and sisters:^{[L][SEP]}¹ I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness

² that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart.

³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh.

⁴ They are Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises;

⁵ theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.....Thanks be to God.

Alleluia – Psalm 130:5

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

⁵ I wait for the Lord;^{[L][SEP]} my soul waits for his word.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Matthew 14:22-33

²² After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

²³ After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.

When it was evening he was there alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it.

²⁵ During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea.²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. “It is a ghost,” they said, and they cried out in fear.²⁷ At once Jesus spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter said to him in reply, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”²⁹ He said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”³¹ Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”³² After they got into the boat, the wind died down.³³ Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.....Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection Prompts:

Before you begin, listen to “My Soul Has Been Anchored” sung by its author Douglas Miller:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENv7zlo_j9M

Discuss one or more of the following:

- Have you had a “theophany” – an encounter with God?
- Where is the “mountain” where you can hear God’s voice in the sheer silence?
- Can you recall some instances of “little faith” in your life?
- Have you “invited Jesus into the storm-tossed boat” to calm a situation?

Mediation Prompt:

Spend a moment thanking God for those times you have been fearless in stepping out onto roiling waters in your life by taking Jesus' hand. Then move into this week's intercessions.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS – August 9, 2020
NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Presider: My friends, let us ask for ears to hear God's whisper and eyes to see the face of Jesus amid the storms of this life as we pray.

Worship Leader

1. For the whole church: that we may be a community ever open to God's call. We pray: **Calm our fears, O God.** (ASSEMBLY RESPONDS: **Calm our fears, O God.**)
2. For those who persist in advocating for peace, despite setbacks. We pray: **Calm our fears, O God.**
3. For the patience and courage to respond to God's call especially in times of doubt. We pray: **Calm our fears, O God.**
4. For kindness within families and among neighbors; for tenderness with our children, care for the most vulnerable and gentle speech with all whom we meet. We pray: **Calm our fears, O God.**
5. For all those affected by the covid-19 pandemic, especially for those whose work is deemed essential yet may be undervalued. We pray: **Calm our fears, O God.**
6. For all who seek healing from substance use disorders and mental health issues, that they find help and mutual support. We pray: **Calm our fears, O God.**
7. For those seeking gainful employment to find jobs with living wages and humane benefits. We pray: **Calm our fears, O God.**

8. For refugees and immigrants to receive humane treatment from the world community, and countries reach out to include them in their societies. We pray: **Calm our fears, O God.**
9. For the health and welfare of students, teachers and support staff as they contemplate beginning a new year of study in this time of pandemic. We pray: **Calm our fears, O God.**
10. For all those who are separated from us by infirmity, especially those listed in our bulletin, and for all those living with HIV and AIDS, that they know our community's care for them. We pray: **Calm our fears, O God.**
11. For all the dead, that they see God face to face, especially Maureen St. Julian and Dorothy Chandonia for whom this Mass is being celebrated. We pray: **Calm our fears, O God.**
12. Please share any intention you have [PAUSE.....] as well as all our own needs. We pray: **Calm our fears, O God.**

Presider: Gracious God, you have loved your people unconditionally and called us in countless and surprising ways. Be patient with us when we are hesitant, relentless when we resist, and forgiving when we fail to respond. Open our eyes and ears, hearts and minds to the gifts you have prepared for us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Savior. LET THE CHURCH SAY – AMEN!

Then sing or recite The Lord's Prayer.

Lean back and listen to "Ordinary People" sung by James Cleveland with Salem Inspirational Choir of Salem Baptist Church in Omaha, Nebraska.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OrlouK08ric>

Closing Prayer

O God, on whom our faith rests secure
and whose reign we await,
sustain us by word and sacrament
and keep us alert for the coming of the Son of Man,
that we may welcome him without delay.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.

Sing along with Aretha Franklin's version of "Walk in the Light"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PNnegn2yIQ>

And if you've really missed singing this song, try this rambunctious
version of "Walk in the Light" from the House of Hope Choir:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oJTgVli1Dg>